IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 5 and ending on page 1, line 10 with the following replacement paragraph:

This patent application is related to concurrently filed patent applications, "Frame Traffic Balancing Across Trunk Groups," by Surya Varanasi——, filed on ——October 31. 2003. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/698,851———, (attorney docket 003.P002); and "Load Balancing in Core-edge Configurations"Frame Traffic Balancing in Core-Edge Configurations," by Surya Varanasi ——, filed on ——October 31, 2003. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/699,568———, (attorney docket 003.P003), both of the foregoing assigned to the assignee of the presently claimed subject matter and hereby incorporated by reference.

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